

## Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 /071 W

----- 049638

R 171130Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7723

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 9787

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO VISITS AZAD KASHMIR

1. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO VISITED AZAD KASHMIR  
SEPTEMBER 16 AND GAVE FURTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE MOVEMENT  
TOWARD THE DE FACTO INTEGRATION OF AZAD KASHMIR INTO PAKISTAN  
IS CONTINUING.  
HE ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO KEEP THE KASHMIR ISSUE  
ALIVE RHETORICALLY, WHILE AT SAME TIME INDICATING THAT  
RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE REMAINS ON BACK BURNER, AND TO  
ATTACK HIS CRITICS WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH NORMALIZATION  
WITH INDIA.

2. THE PM WENT TO AZAD KASHMIR FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT  
THAT AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIBERATION LEAGUE, LED BY  
K.H. KHURSHID, WAS MERGING WITH PEOPLE'S PARTY.  
ALTHOUGH THE MERGER MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN TERMS OF  
REPRESENTATION IN KASHMIR ASSEMBLY (WITH THE LEAGUE'S  
THREE SEATS, PP NOW HAS 36 OF 40 SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY),  
IT IS NEVERTHELESS POLITICALLY IMPORTANT. KHURSHID IS  
WIDELY ADMIRER AND RESPECTED KASHMIRI POLITICIAN. HIS  
PARTY HAS ACTIVELY PROPAGATED THE NEED TO LIBERATE  
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KASHMIR AND HIS JOINING THE PP FOLD IS A COUP FOR BHUTTO

IN CONTEXT OF KASHMIRI POLITICS. FACT THAT BHUTTO JOURNEYED TO MUZAFFARABAD, AZAD KASHMIR CAPITAL, TO ACCEPT KHURSHID AND HIS PARTY INTO THE PP IS AN INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE OF THIS MOVE. HAVING LIBERATION LEAGUE SUPPORT FOR PP POLICIES IN AZAD KASHMIR MAKES IT EASIER FOR BHUTTO TO CONTINUE THE SLOW PROCESS OF ADMINISTRATIVELY TYING AZAD KASHMIR CLOSER TO PAKISTAN.

3. BHUTTO USED OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FOR ONE HOUR ON FUTURE OF KASHMIR AND RELATIONS WITH INDIA. HE MADE USUAL RHETORICAL OBEISANCE TO THE GOAL OF LIBERATION. HE SAID THE PP WOULD NEVER BARGAIN ON THE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR. HE THEN ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS ONLY LOGICAL TO FIRST SETTLE ALL BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH INDIA WHICH "OBSCURE THE CONTINUING BANE OF PAKISTAN-INDIA RELATIONS - KASHMIR ISSUE." ONLY THEN IS IT LOGICAL TO ADDRESS BASIC ISSUE OF RESOLVING KASHMIR DISPUTE.

4. PM STRONGLY CRITICIZED OPPOSITION LEADERS WHO ARE UNHAPPY WITH THE COURSE OF NORMALIZATION BY NOTING THAT INDIA HAS NOT GAINED ANY ADVANTAGES FROM PROCESS. HE SAID THAT "HEAVEN HAS NOT FALLEN BECAUSE TRADE TIES HAVE BEEN RESTORED WITH INDIA" AND ADDED THAT INDIAN PM HAS TOLD PAK AMBASSADOR IN DELHI THAT PAKISTAN IS WELCOME TO STOP TRADING WITH IHRIA IF IT DESIRED SINCE RESTORATION OF TRADE TIES IS NOT A FAVOR TO INDIA. THE PM TOOK THE OFFENSIVE AND SAID HE HAD BEEN FALSELY ACCUSED OF GRANTING TRANSIT RIGHTS TO INDIA. NO SUCH FACILITIES HAD BEEN GRANTED, TIUT IF THEY WERE, HE COULD EASILY DEFEND THEM TO THE PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN.

5. THE PM CONTINUES TO BE BOTHERED BY OPPOSITION SNIPING ABOUT HIS POLICY TOWARD INDIA AND THEIR CHARGES HE HAS "SOLD OUT" ON KKAHMIR. HIS SPEECH IN MUZAFFARABAD INDICATES HE WILL NOT CHANGE THE COURSE ON WHICH HE HAS EMBARKED, HOWEVER, AND WILL CONTINUE TO JUSTIFY HIS POLICY PUBLICLY WHENEVER THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES.  
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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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